

IDIOMS WORDLISTS

Idioms in alphabetical order

a blank canvas	something that can be developed or changed in many different ways	The flat is a blank canvas . We could do exactly what we want to make it our own.
a breath of fresh air	someone or something that is new, interesting, and exciting	After all the criticism, his positivity came as a breath of fresh air .
a likely story	used for telling someone that you do not believe what they have just said	What, she just found the watch on a park bench? A likely story .
a long shot	an attempt or guess that is not likely to be successful but that is worth trying	It's a long shot , but you could try calling her at work.
a sight for sore eyes	someone or something that you are very pleased to see	Hey Pippa, you're a sight for sore eyes !
a slow burner	a thing that slowly develops into something interesting or powerful	Be patient because the series is a slow burner . It gets far better in the second episode.
Achilles heel	a weak feature of someone or something that is otherwise strong, which makes them open to attack or failure	Spelling and punctuation has always been my Achilles heel .
agree to differ	to accept that someone else does not have the same opinion as you and agree not to argue about it any more	There are some issues on which my colleague and I have agreed to differ .
as dead as a doornail	completely dead or not working	I dropped my mobile phone in the bath and now it's as dead as a doornail .
as far as anyone can tell	used for saying what you think is true when you think that there may be facts that you or others do not know	There's been no damage to the property as far as anyone can tell .
at the leading edge	at the most modern and advanced point in the development of something	These scientists are at the leading edge of medical research.
be barking up the wrong tree	to be doing something that will not get the result that you want	If you think Hamish is going to help you, then I'm afraid you're barking up the wrong tree .
be caught red-handed	to be caught doing something wrong	They were caught red-handed trying to break into the van.
be full of yourself	to be always talking about yourself or your achievements in a way that annoys other people	I'd rather not ask Ivan to do the speech – he's a bit too full of himself .
be made of money	to have a lot of money	I can't give you as much as that – I'm not made of money , you know.
be on a roll	to be having a lot of success or good luck	We'd be crazy to stop when things are going so well – we're on a roll .
be out of the loop	to not belong to a group that has information and makes decisions about something	There's no point in asking Kanami about it – she's out of the loop .
be rolling in it	to have a lot of money	They sold their house in London and made a massive profit, so they're rolling in it .
be stuck between a rock and a hard place	to be in a position in which you have to choose between two things that are not good	Either Pablo is disappointed or we upset Anna. We're stuck between a rock and a hard place on this one.
be your bread and butter	to be something that provides your main income	Right now this kind of work is my bread and butter .
bear no resemblance to (someone / something)	to look completely different to someone or something	This is supposed to be a replacement but it bears no resemblance to the original.
beat around the bush	to spend a long time getting to the main point of what you are saying, often because it is embarrassing	I wish they'd stop beating around the bush and tell us what we need to know.